



THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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For Immediate Release

2005 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON BULLYING AND HARASSMENT: POWER AND EMPOWERMENT

(DES MOINES, Iowa) – January 25, 2005 – Students and educators from across the state will meet with national experts at the 2005 Governor's Conference on Bullying and Harassment: Power and Empowerment, Thursday, January 27, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Scheman Auditorium in Ames.

"Our goal is to continue to provide opportunities for students and teachers to share concerns and information about aggression and violence in schools," said Governor Tom Vilsack. "We need to raise awareness and provide practical strategies and solutions for teachers, the victims, and the bystanders who might see bullying occur," he added. "Everyone has a responsibility to make sure every student feels safe in school."

About 425 participants are expected to attend the conference. Schools were encouraged to bring teams who could collaborate during breakout time during the day, as well as after they return to their districts. Lt. Governor Sally Pederson will provide opening remarks at the conference, and experts scheduled to speak include Dr. Nan Stein, Senior Research Scientist, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College; Susan Limber, Ph.D., MLS, Associate Director of the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life and Professor of Psychology, Clemson University; and Russ Skiba, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Counseling and Educational Psychology at Indiana University.

"People will leave here empowered because they will have tactics and solutions they can put into action right away," said Linda Miller from the Iowa Department of Education, which is helping to host the event.

An event schedule and speaker biographies are below.

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Helping Communities Meet the Learning Needs of All Their Children and Adults

2005 Governor's Conference on Bullying and Harassment: Power and Empowerment

January 27, 2005, at Scheman Conference Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

8:30 am	Registration	
9:00 am	Welcoming Address — Governor's Office	
9:30 am	<i>KEYNOTE: NAN STEIN</i> Reaffirming Rights: The Campaign to Prevent Bullying and Harassment	
10:15 am	Break and Team Time	
10:45 am	Morning Breakout Sessions	
		Who are the Targets of Bullying? Youth Panel Facilitated by Brad Clark
		Many Faces of Bullying Susan Limber
		Policy & Best Practice Russ Skiba
11:30 am	Lunch/Team Time Entertainment with a Message Performance by Jake Blomberg, Heather Flickinger, Jessica Selmer, Emily Mortvedt, Hannah Joslin and Danielle Cardella, Roland-Story High School HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Chapter	
12:30 pm	Afternoon Breakout Sessions I	
	PLEASE NOTE: Strands A-C have sessions that are independent of each other and can be taken in any order. Strand D, the Youth Strand, will have sessions that build on one another and should be taken in succession.	
	Strand A	Working With Diverse Populations This strand focuses on special issues of bullying from disabilities to gender to race to sexual orientation.
	Strand B	The Many Faces of Bullying This strand focuses on tactics that bullies use, including cyber bullying, gang strategies and relational bullying.
	Strand C	Prevention and Intervention This strand focuses on best practices and resources to help reduce bullying in your school.

	Strand D	Youth This strand is designed for an audience of middle and high school students and will focus on how they can make a difference in their school. <i>Please note that Strand D sessions will build on one another.</i>
1:15 pm	Team Time Check In	
1:30 pm	Afternoon Breakout Sessions II	
	Strands A-D, see strand descriptions above	
2:15 pm	Refreshment Break	
2:30 pm	Afternoon Breakout Sessions III	
	Strands A-D, see strand descriptions above	
3:15 pm	Facilitated Team Time with Jeff Cornett	
4:15 pm	Youth Voices (3-5 students from Strand D) & Wrap-Up	

KEYNOTE: Reaffirming Rights: The Campaign to Prevent Bullying and Harassment

Dr. Nan Stein, Senior Research Scientist, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College

For more than 25 years, Dr. Stein has conducted research on sexual harassment, bullying and gender violence in elementary and secondary schools. Her research has been supported by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Education Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Soros Foundation and by several private family foundations.

Dr Stein has written several popular and evaluated curricula on sexual harassment, bullying and gender violence in schools, as well as many articles and book chapters that have been published in academic and law journals, and the educational and popular press. She often appears on television news and talk shows to speak about sexual harassment and gender violence in schools, and serves as an expert witness in lawsuits on sexual harassment and child sexual abuse in schools. Each year, Dr. Stein teaches a seminar in the anthropology department at Wellesley College on "Gendered Violations." In 2003, she was appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts as a commissioner to the Governor's Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence for a term of three years.

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Who Are the Targets of Bullying?

Youth Panel; Moderator Brad Clark

Iowa students share their own experiences dealing with bullying and harassment in our schools. Hear how they coped and dealt with harassment and bullying, ways they wished administrators, teachers and school staff had dealt with the harassment and bullying, and the impact these experiences have had on their ability to achieve and function both in and out of the school setting.

Assessment & Programming

Susan Limber, Ph.D., MLS, Associate Director of the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life and Professor of Psychology, Clemson University

Dr. Limber is co-author of the internationally known, research-based "Blueprints" Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and has directed the first wide-scale implementation and evaluation of the program in the United States. As a developmental psychologist, her research and writing has focused on the legal and psychological issues related to youth violence, child protection and children's rights. In recent years, she has consulted with numerous schools around the country on the reduction of bullying among school children and will share her experiences and thoughts about quality programs to reduce and prevent bullying and harassment.

Policy & Best Practice

Russ Skiba, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Counseling and Educational Psychology at Indiana University

Dr. Skiba has worked in the areas of emotional and behavioral disorders, school violence, zero tolerance and cultural diversity. He has published extensively in the areas of school violence and equity including his recent report, *The Color of Discipline*, which addresses disproportionality in school suspensions of African American youth. He currently is Project Director of the Safe and Responsive Schools Project, a U.S. Department of Education Project of National Significance, which is designed to develop alternatives to zero tolerance for school discipline and school violence. He is editor of a special issue of *New Directions for Youth Development* on zero tolerance that has just been released by Jossey-Bass.

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Topics will include:

- **STRAND A: Working With Diverse Populations**

This strand focuses on special issues of bullying from disabilities to gender to race to sexual orientation.

- **STRAND B: The Many Faces of Bullying**

This strand focuses on tactics that bullies use, including cyber bullying, gang strategies and relational bullying.

- **STRAND C: Prevention and Intervention**

This strand focuses on best practices and resources to help reduce bullying in your school.

- **STRAND D: Youth**

This strand is designed for an audience of middle and high school students and will focus on how they can make a difference in their school. *Please note that Strand D sessions will build on one another.*

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